other proposals were cleared, relating to cases received prior to 1-8-1992. Thus, the total number of cases cleared since 1-8-1992 up to 31-7-1993 are 41.

(e) As and when full details are received, the proposals are examined expeditiously for decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Rio Earth Summit

2743. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to the United Nations he expressed unhappiness over the fact that even after a year of the Rio Earth Summit few concrete steps had been taken, especially by the industrial countries, to implement the Rio-conventions:

(b) if so, what was the general response of the world body, particularly the industrial countries thereto; and

(c) whether the steps taken to control pollution in India had also been reviewed, if so, the details in this regard and the outcome of the apprisal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) While addressing the First Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in June 1993 at New York, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests has expressed India's deep concern about slow progress in allocation of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology by the developed countries, as agreed in Rio. Similar sentiments were also expressed by many of the other developing countries. There was a general consensus that the Commission on Sustainable Development has to play an important role in this regard.

(c) No Sir.

State Pollution Control Board

2744. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government recently issued directions to the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Committees regarding grant of Consent to establish small scale industries other than 17 identified industries, making a provision that mere script of an application will be taken as consent given to the applying individual unit if it belongs to other category other than the 17 identified ones, and that such consent is to be valid for 15 years;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to control pollution from thousands of dying, rolling and pickling rubber and PVC processing units, electroplating units etc. which are very hazardous, but still not included in the 17 identified industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that Delhi Pollution Control Committee is being headed by a non-technical member-Secretary in contravention of the R. R. for the post of Director (Environment) who is Ex-officio Member-Secretary to D.P.C.C.; and

(d) if so, the reasons due to which fully qualified technical hands in DPCC are not considered for the post ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The directions issued have only simplified the procedure for the small scale units (other than the 17 categories) to obtain the consent. It has been specified that there would be no need for the industry to obtain periodic renewal of consent till 15 years or such time the unit modifies/changes its process/processes. All such industries still have to conform to all the existing requirements in regard to the control of pollution, and the directions issued also specified that the concerned State Pollution Control Boards may conduct random checks or call for information from any small scale units, and make a formal consent order prescribing conditions etc., as required.

(c) and (d) Steps have been taken for recruitment of the post of a Director (Environment) on a regular basis, and the present incumbent of the post of Member-Secretay holds it on an ad hoc basis, which is not a contravention of the recruitment rules.

Rising Rate of Illegal Felling of Trees

2745. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement in the Patriot dated 8th July, 1993 stating that rising rate of illegal felling of trees and slow rate of afforestation in the States was causing grave concern;

(b) whether similar reports have been received from other States also during the past three months, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's response by way of checking this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement showing the number of complaints received from various states in the last three months is annexured. (*See* below).

(c) While the complaints regarding illicit felling of trees are being dealt through State Governments, following steps are taken by Government of India to check illicit felling of trees:

(i) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to check the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes;

(ii) The State Governments have been asked to consider a ban on green felling of trees on hilly and mountainous regions above 1000 metres;

(iii) Guidelines have also been issued to the States to involve village communities in protection of forests on usufruct basis;

(iv) The G. B. Pant Himalayan institutes for Environment & Development is engaged in research and development studies.

(v) Export of timber has been banned.

(vi) Import of timber has been liberalised.

Statement

Rising Rate of Illegal Felling of Trees

Complaints regarding illicit felling of Trees in Last three Months—Statewise

Sl. No.	Name of the States	No. of complaint received
1.	Bihar	4
2.	Gujarat	1
3.	Haryana	1
4.	Madhya Pradesh	15
5.	Maharashtra	1
6.	Orissa	1
7.	Rajasthan	4
8.	Uttar Pradesh	16

Depletion of Forests

2746. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a task force to operate in different States for a limited period in extreme cases of environmental degradation with special reference to forests; and

(b) if so, whether Government would initiate such steps to retrieve lost forests and prevent further and total depletion of forest resources in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Ecological Task Forces have been set up for taking up eco-development and afforestation in difficult terrains. At present, three such Eco-Task Forces are operational in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir. The constitution of further eco-task forces is being considered but will depend on resourced availability.

Protests from some Communities against their dislocation from Rajaji National Park

2747. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a whether it is a fact that the Gujjars and other communities having a base in Rajaji National Park in Uttar Predesh have been protesting against their dislocation from the forest; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to meet the demands of these communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In order to protect the forest and wildlife in the Rajaji National Park and at the same time to improve the quality of life of Gujjars and to bring them into the main stream of social life